

GREAT souls in krishna consciousness

MAHAJANS

VALI AND VAMANA

FROM THE SUBLIME *SRIMAD BHAGHATAM* COMES THE NARRATIVE OF *VALI MAHARAJ*--ONE OF THE *MAHAJANS*--THE GREAT AUTHORITIES IN THE SCIENCE OF GOD REALIZATION....

INDRA! CAN YOU HEAR MY HEART POUNDING WITH THE THRILL OF BATTLE? INDRA! YOU AND YOUR DEMI-GODS ARE DOOMED!

YES, MY PUPIL! WE FLY UNDEFEATED THROUGH THE VERY STREETS AND COURTYARDS OF INDRA'S HEAVEN! YOU HAVE LISTENED WELL TO MY ADVICE!

FAR BACK IN COSMIC HISTORY THERE WAS A GREAT WAR IN WHICH *VALI MAHARAJ*, LEADER OF THE DREADED *ASURAS*, CONQUERED THE HEAVENS IN A SHATTERING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE FORCES OF KING *INDRA*....

BEHOLD THE MIGHT OF OUR AWFUL FOE, O *VRIHASHPATI*! HOW HAS HE GAINED SUCH POWER, MY TEACHER? PLEASE, TELL ME!

HE HAS GAINED KNOWLEDGE OF THE ABSOLUTE FROM THE RACE OF *BRAHMINS*, O KING *INDRA*! EXCEPT FOR GOD HIMSELF, NEITHER YOU NOR ANY OTHER CAN NOW DEFEAT HIM!

ATTACK! ATTACK! OH, SEE HOW THE CELESTIALS ARE STRICKEN WITH FEAR!

WRITTEN BY
ILLUSTRATED BY
LETTERED BY

SATSVARUPA DAS ADHIKARY
JADURANY DEVI DAS/
MADHUSUDAN DAS BRAHMACHARY



SOON AFTERWARDS, ADITI, WIFE OF THE GREAT SAGE KASYAPA, MOTHER OF INDRA AND THE OTHER CELESTIALS, BEWAILS THE EXILE OF HER CHILDREN....



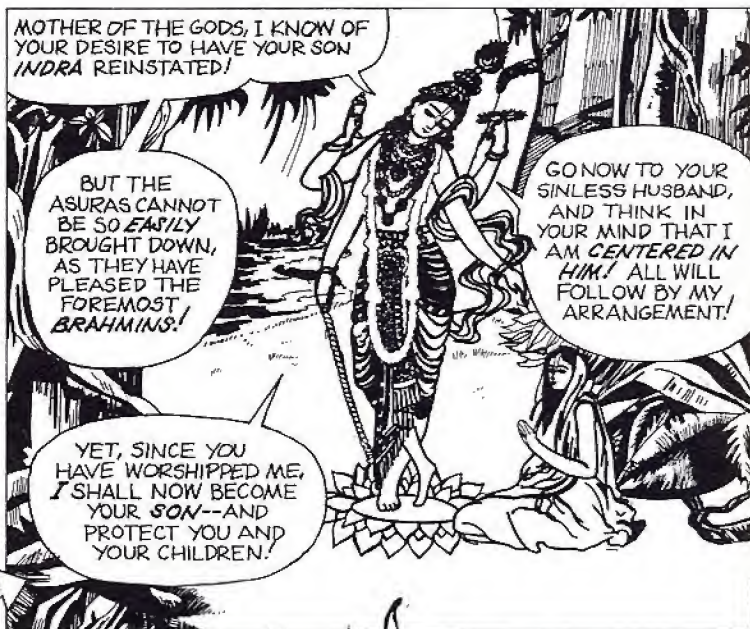
WITH REVERENCE, ADITI STEADFASTLY FOLLOWS KASYAPA'S INSTRUCTIONS....





AFTER 12 DAYS OF PENANCE, FASTING AND CONSTANT CHANTING, ADITI BEHOLDS THE ALMIGHTY PERSONALITY OF GODHEAD....

O INFINITE LORD!
GLORY TO YOU!



MOTHER OF THE GODS, I KNOW OF YOUR DESIRE TO HAVE YOUR SON INDRA REINSTATED!

BUT THE ASURAS CANNOT BE SO EASILY BROUGHT DOWN, AS THEY HAVE PLEASSED THE FOREMOST BRAHMINS!

YET, SINCE YOU HAVE WORSHIPPED ME, I SHALL NOW BECOME YOUR SON--AND PROTECT YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN!

GO NOW TO YOUR SINLESS HUSBAND, AND THINK IN YOUR MIND THAT I AM CENTERED IN HIM! ALL WILL FOLLOW BY MY ARRANGEMENT!



SHORTLY....

REJOICE IN THE LORD, KASYAPA! I HAVE PERFORMED ALL THE SACRIFICES--AND HE WHO IS THE UNIVERSE HAS PROMISED TO APPEAR--AS OUR SON!

THE LORD IS HERE--WITHIN ME! BY MY YOGA POWER I CAN UNDERSTAND THE PART I AM TO PLAY!

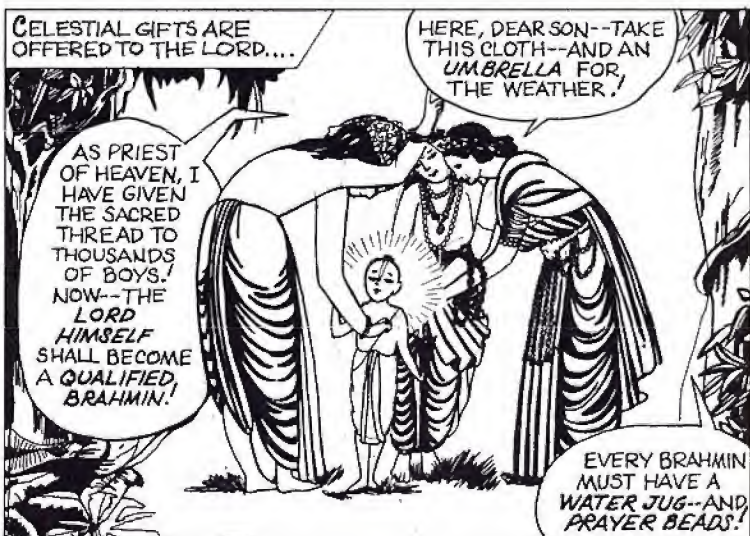
AND SO, THROUGH KASYAPA, THE SUPREME PERSONALITY OF GOD-HEAD IS BORN TO ADITI, WHILE THE GREAT PERSONALITIES OF THE SPIRITUAL WORLD APPEAR TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS....



GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

THOUGH YOU DWELL ABOVE THIS UNIVERSE, YOU HAVE COME HERE IN ANSWER TO ADITI'S PRAYER!

HE WHO IS BEYOND BIRTH AND DEATH HAS TAKEN HIS BIRTH AS VAMANA THE DWARF--SON OF THE BRAHMIN, KASYAPA!



CELESTIAL GIFTS ARE OFFERED TO THE LORD....

HERE, DEAR SON--TAKE THIS CLOTH--AND AN UMBRELLA FOR THE WEATHER!

AS PRIEST OF HEAVEN, I HAVE GIVEN THE SACRED THREAD TO THOUSANDS OF BOYS! NOW--THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL BECOME A QUALIFIED BRAHMIN!

EVERY BRAHMIN MUST HAVE A WATER JUG--AND PRAYER BEADS!

LATER....



MY DEAR PARENTS
AND TEACHERS HAVE
MADE SUCH A
NICE CEREMONY!

NOW I CAN TELL YOU
BRAHMAJI, THAT I
AM GOING FORTH TO
THE PLACE WHERE
MAHARAJ VALI IS! HE
IS OF THAT PRINCELY
ORDER WHICH IS
ALWAYS READY TO
GIVE IN CHARITY!

I AM GOING TO
APPROACH HIM--AND
BEG SOMETHING! AND
JUST SEE HOW THIS
WILL COMPLETELY
ACCOMPLISH THE
PURPOSE OF MY
MOTHER!

MEANWHILE, AT THE PALACE OF THE ASURAS, KING VALI AND HIS TEACHER, SUKARA, ARE ENGAGED IN A NEW SACRIFICE....

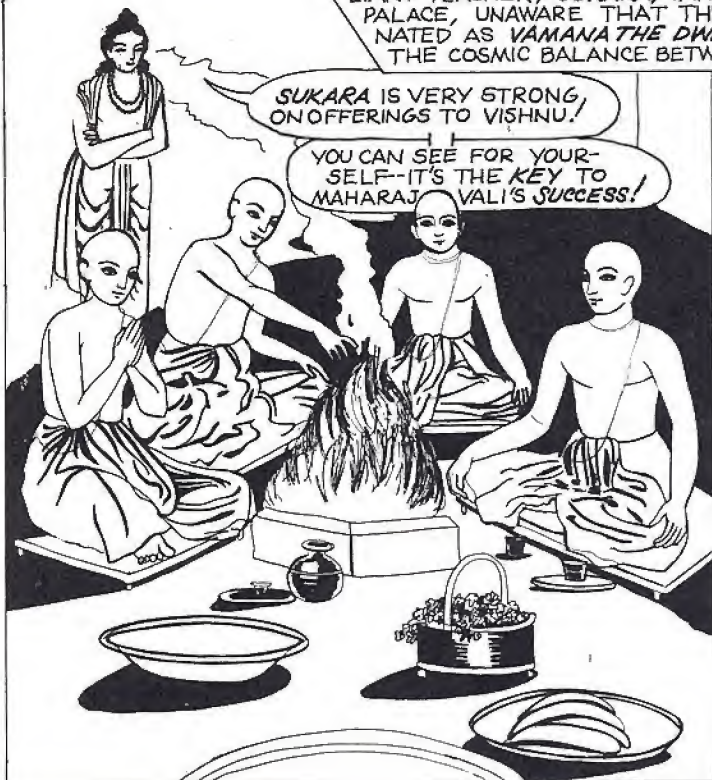


HURRY ALONG! BRING OUT
MORE RICE! ISN'T THE
CLARIFIED BUTTER
PREPARED YET?

SUCH QUANTITIES OF
GRAIN OFFERED INTO THE
FIRE! THIS MAKES 100
SACRIFICES IN THE LAST
TWO MONTHS!
OUR KING VALI SHALL
NEVER BE VANQUISHED!

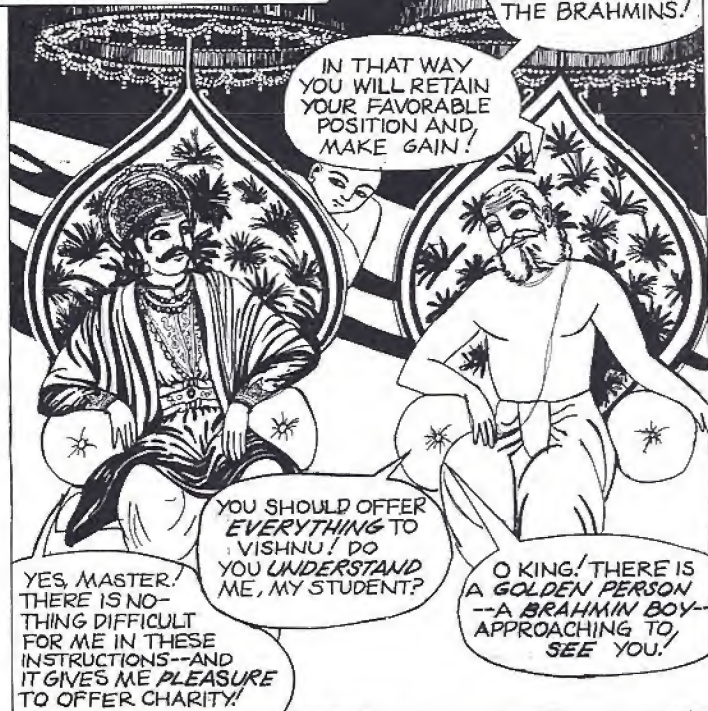
OF COURSE, VALI AND HIS CONQUERING HORDES ARE IN FOR A
SURPRISE--AND WE'RE IN FOR A DELIGHTFUL STORY--BUT SPACE
WON'T PERMIT IT THIS ISSUE. WHY NOT JOIN US NEXT MONTH FOR
MAHARAJ VALI'S CONFRONTATION WITH VAMANA THE DWARF?

THE STORY OF VALI AND VAMANA—CONCLUSION: HAVING CONQUERED INDRA'S CELESTIAL KINGDOM, THE ASURA KING VALI AND HIS BRILLIANT TEACHER, **SUKARA**, TAKE RESIDENCE IN THE DEMIGOD'S PALACE, UNAWARE THAT THE **SUPREME LORD** HAS INCARNATED AS **VAMANA THE DWARF** IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE COSMIC BALANCE BETWEEN GODS AND DEMONS....



SUKARA IS VERY STRONG, ON OFFERINGS TO VISHNU!

YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF--IT'S THE KEY TO MAHARAJ VALI'S SUCCESS!



I ADVISE YOU, MY DEAR VALI, TO KEEP UP THESE SACRIFICES TO VISHNU--AND TO THE BRAHMINS!

IN THAT WAY YOU WILL RETAIN YOUR FAVORABLE POSITION AND MAKE GAIN!

YOU SHOULD OFFER EVERYTHING TO VISHNU! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, MY STUDENT?

YES, MASTER! THERE IS NOTHING DIFFICULT FOR ME IN THESE INSTRUCTIONS--AND IT GIVES ME PLEASURE TO OFFER CHARITY!

O KING! THERE IS A GOLDEN PERSON--A BRAHMIN BOY--APPROACHING TO SEE YOU!



WHO IS THIS? HAS THE SUN HIMSELF COME TO OUR SACRIFICE?

BEAUTIFUL BRAHMIN BOY! YOU APPEAR TO BE THE EPITOME OF THE BEST BRAHMINS!

HMM! CAN THIS BE THE LORD HIMSELF--COME IN THE GUISE OF A BEGGAR TO TAKE EVERYTHING FROM US?



BRAHMIN BOY--I THINK YOU WISH SOMETHING OF ME!

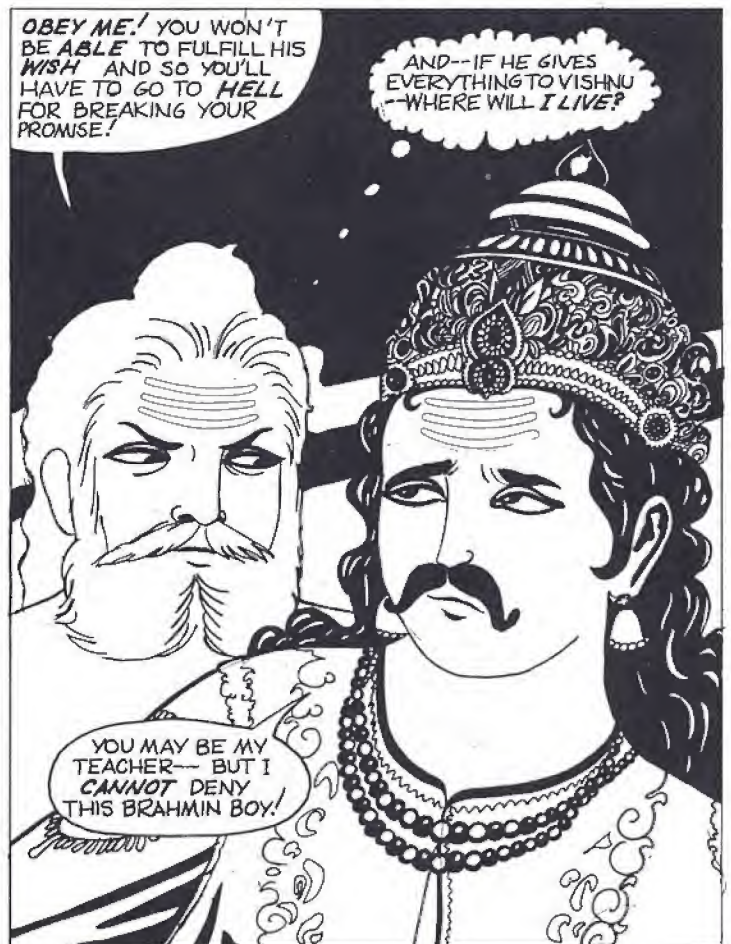
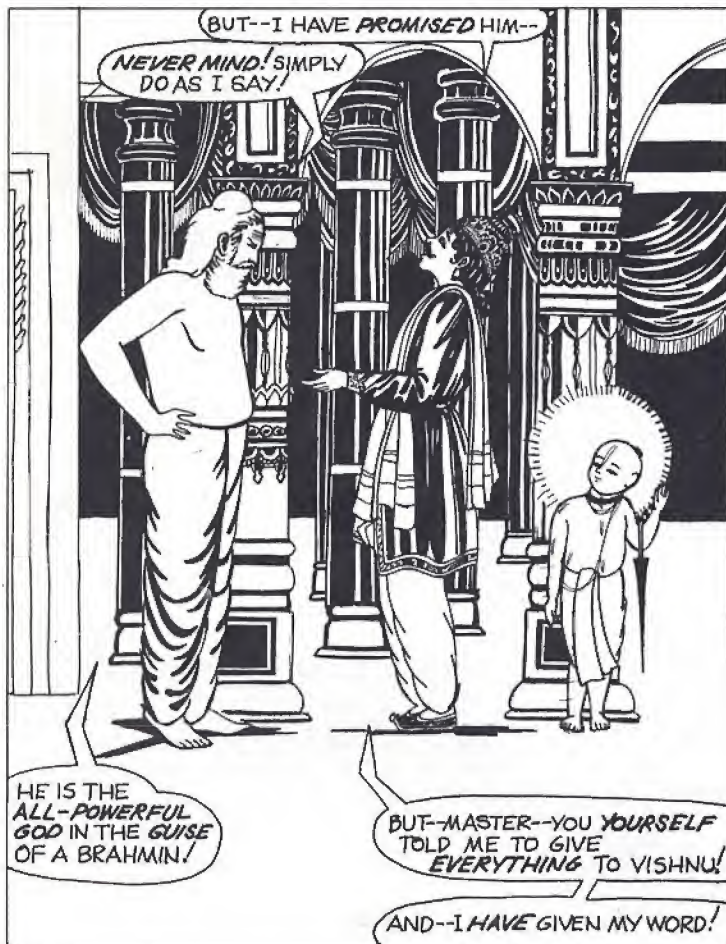
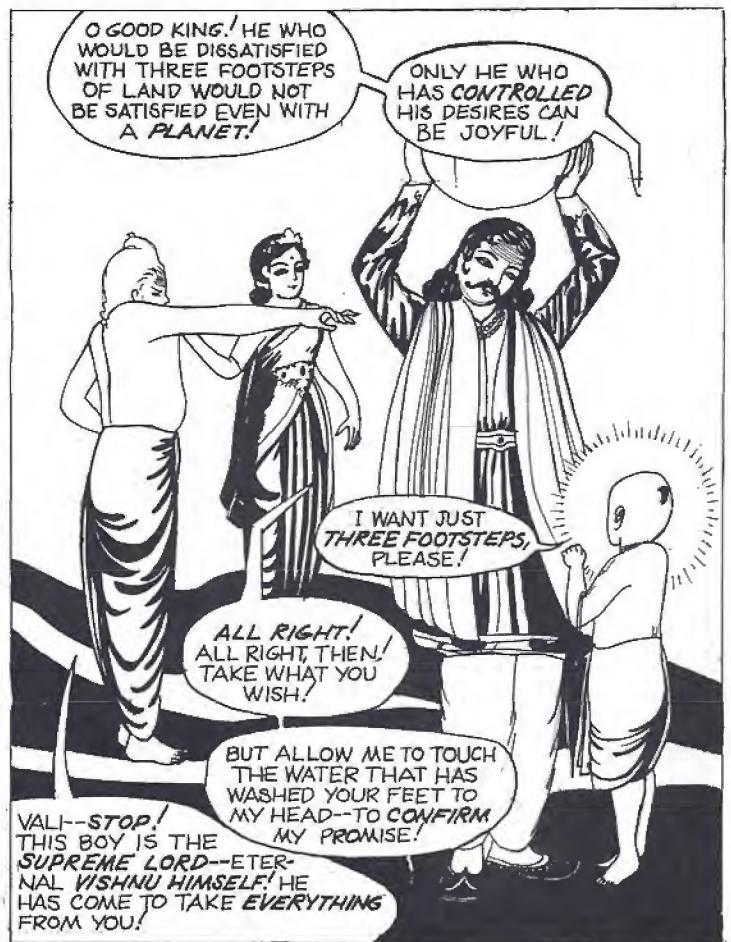
SO, BE PLEASED! YOU HAVE COME TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST RULER!

THIS GROUND BELONGS TO ME--BUT YOU HAVE BLESSED IT BY WALKING ON IT WITH YOUR FEET! COME NOW! TAKE GOLD, OR HOUSES, OR FOOD, OR GIRLS, OR ELEPHANTS--WHATEVER YOU LIKE!

THE FOOL!

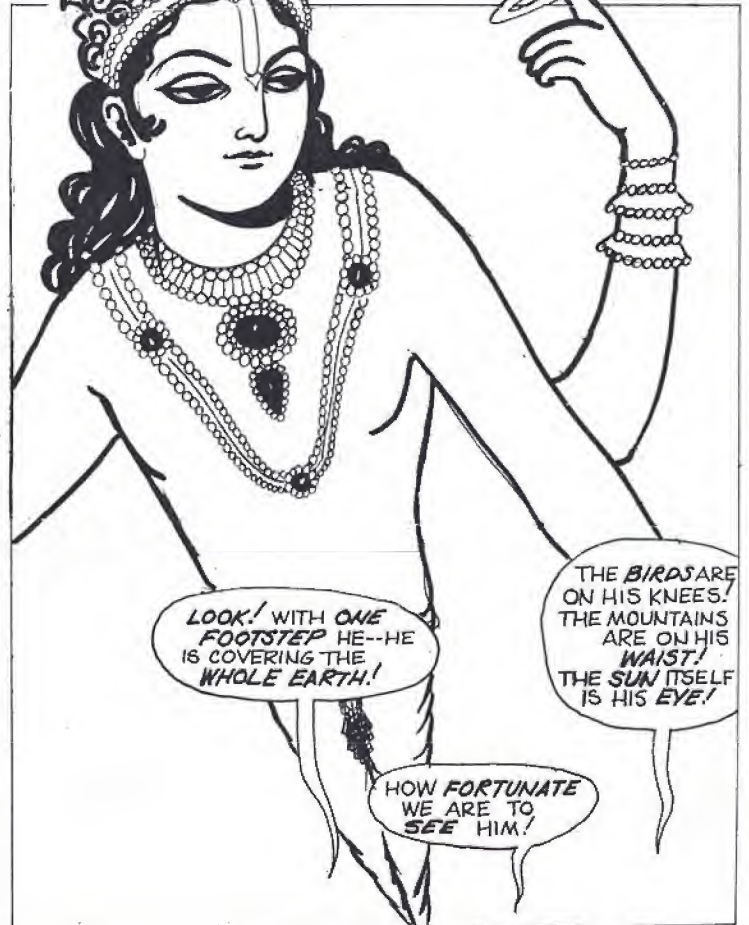
WRITTEN BY
ART BY
LETTERED BY

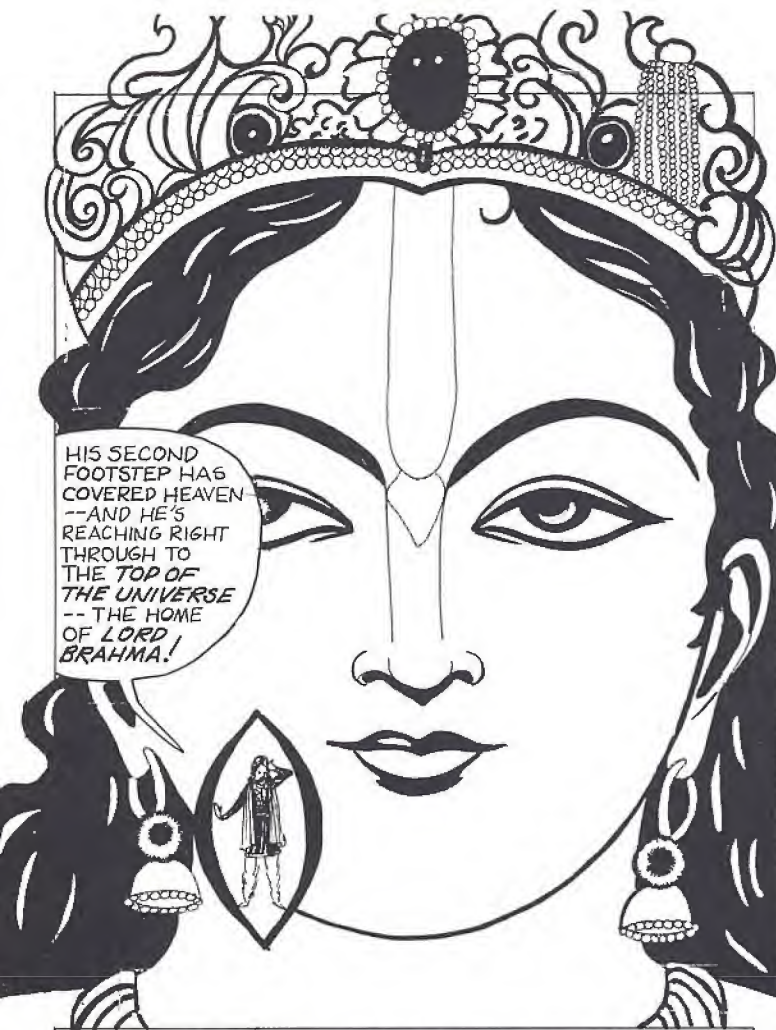
SATSVARUPA DAS ADHIKARY
JADURANY DEVI DAS!
MADHUSUDAN DAS BRAHMACHARY





IMMEDIATELY, THE BRAHMIN BOY BEGINS TO GROW--TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO THE FORM OF THE COSMOS...





THE GANDHARVAS, THE HEAVENLY SINGERS, PRAISE VAMANA WITH THEIR VOICES...

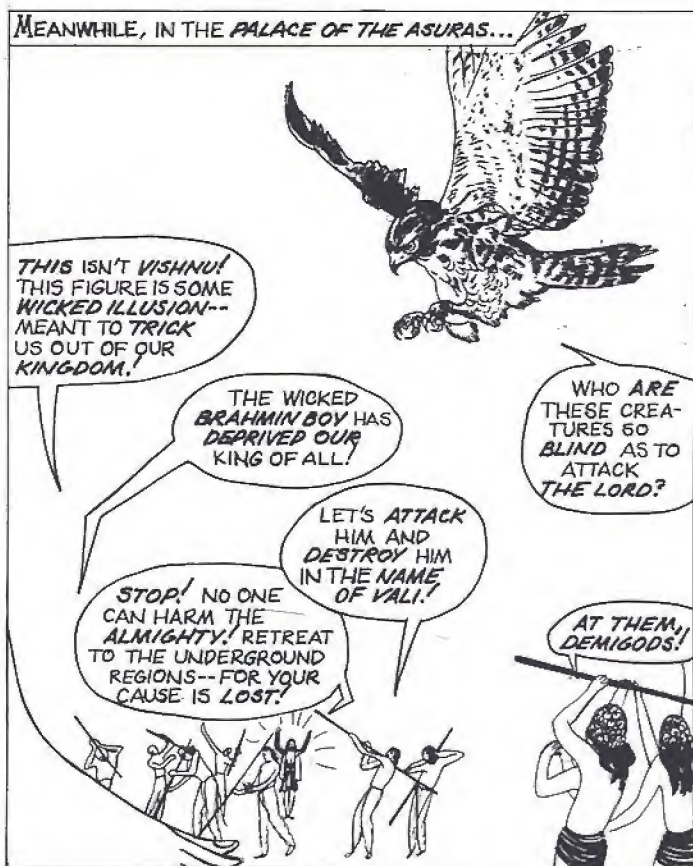


AS THEY BEHOLD THE LORD'S GIGANTIC FORM, THE DEMIGODS BEGIN TO SING HIS PRAISES...



AS THE UNIVERSAL FORM OF VISHNU FULLY EXPANDS, THE AUSPICIOUS DEMIGOD, LORD SHIVA, ARRIVES TO OFFER HIS ADORATION...

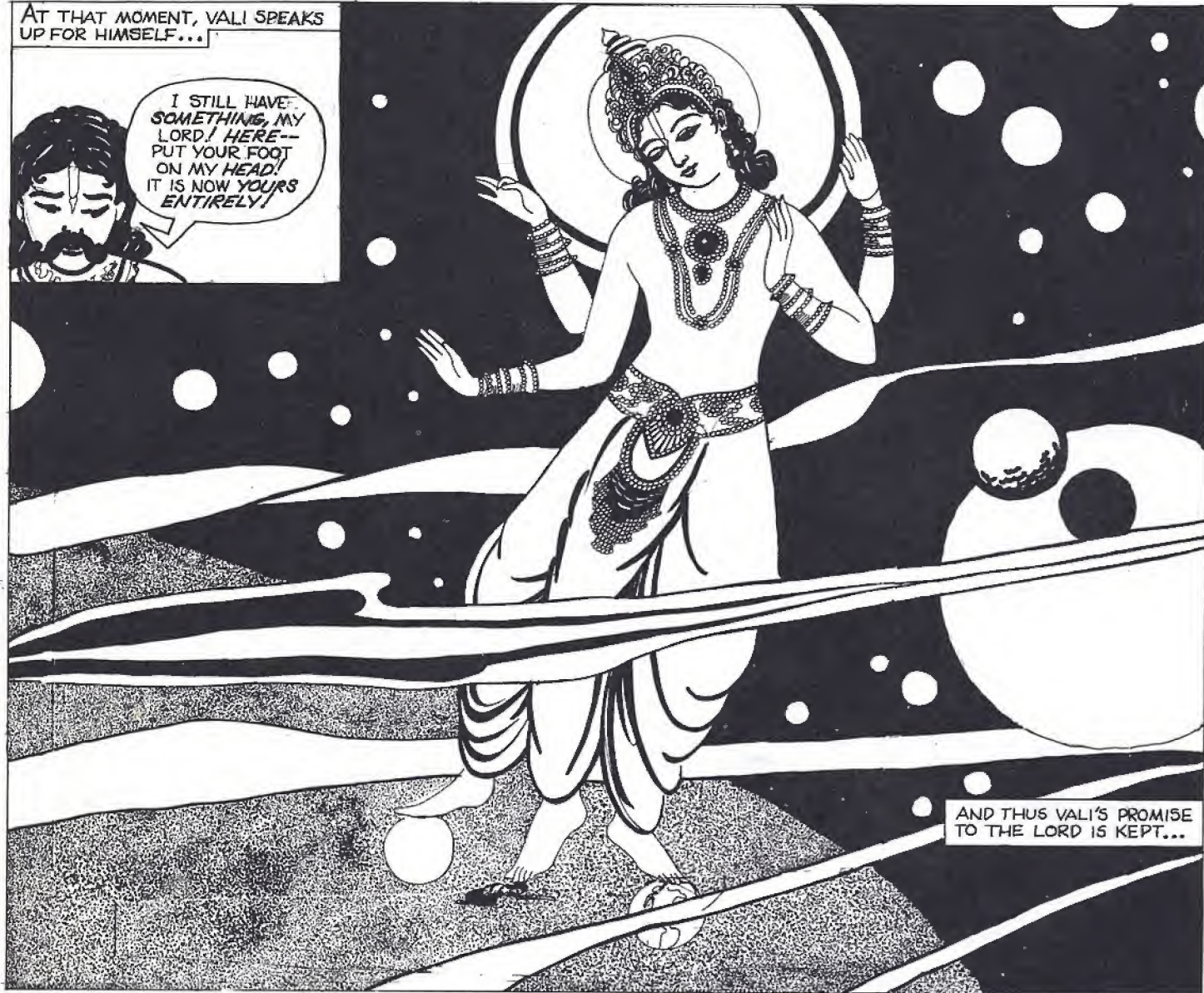




AT THAT MOMENT, VALI SPEAKS UP FOR HIMSELF...



I STILL HAVE SOMETHING, MY LORD! HERE-- PUT YOUR FOOT ON MY HEAD! IT IS NOW YOURS ENTIRELY!



AND THUS VALI'S PROMISE TO THE LORD IS KEPT...

AS VALI GIVES HIMSELF TO THE LORD, THE LORD RESUMES HIS GRACEFUL FORM AS THE *BRAHMIN BOY*...

I'M VERY PLEASED WITH YOU, VALI! CURSED BY YOUR FAMILY TEACHER, DEPRIVED OF YOUR WEALTH, DESERTED BY YOUR ARMY--BOUND--AND YET YOU'RE NOT CONFUSED OR ANGRY!

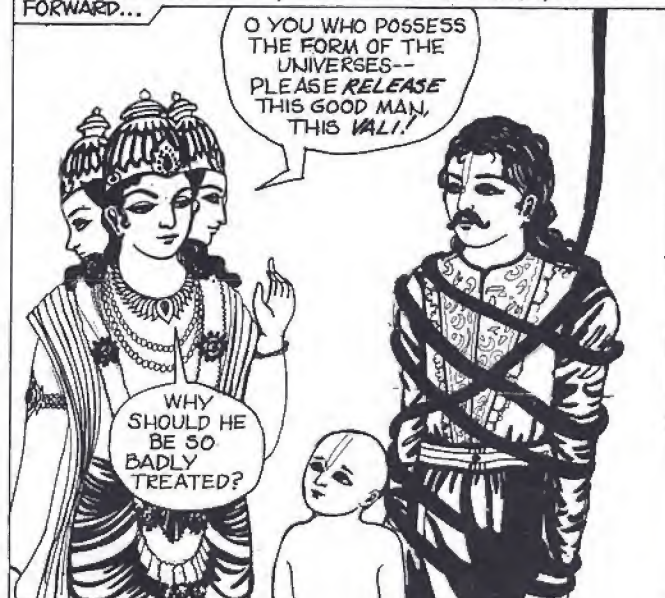


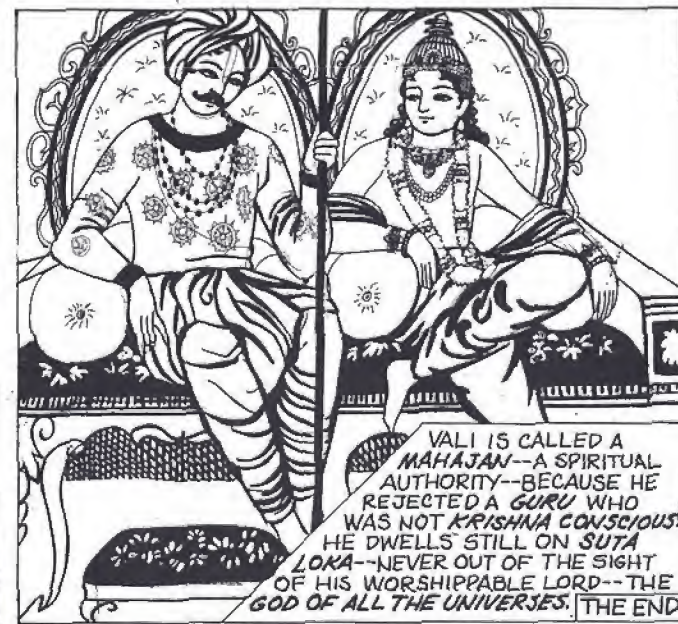
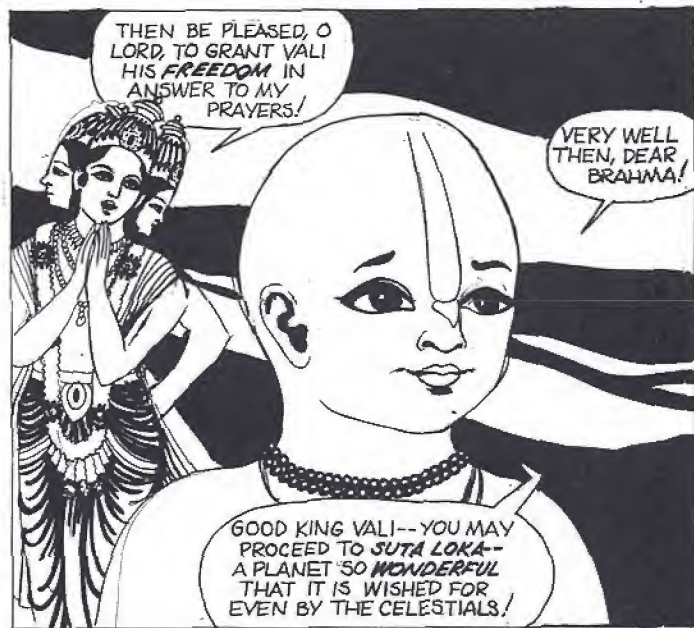
MY ONLY FEAR IS THAT I SHOULD BREAK MY PROMISE! I CAN SEE THAT ALL THIS WEALTH MEANS NOTHING!

AT THIS POINT *BRAHMA*, CHIEF OF THE DEMIGODS, STEPS FORWARD...

O YOU WHO POSSESS THE FORM OF THE UNIVERSES-- PLEASE RELEASE THIS GOOD MAN, THIS VALI!

WHY SHOULD HE BE SO BADLY TREATED?





Courtesy:

**Back to Godhead
magazine**